MILATARI
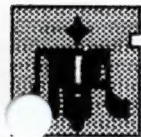
COMPUTER ART BY DICK SKOVER

MILATARI NEWSLETTER

MILATARI CALENDAR

July 18th 6:30 PM
Board of Directors Meeting
Ground Round - Hyw 100 & Blue Mound
July 20th 2:00 PM
July Meeting at Armbruster School
Don Wilcox Demo - CD Alarm System
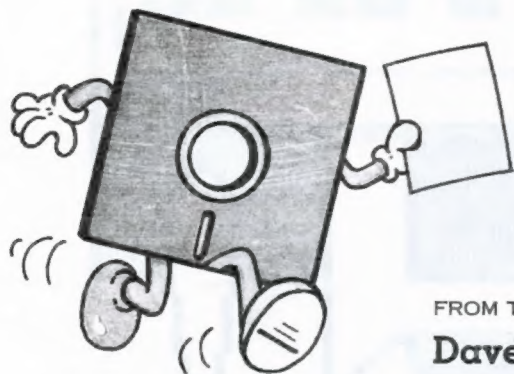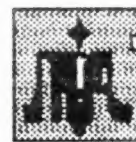Syncom - Disk Manufacturing
3rd Annual Swap Fest
August 5th 7:00 PM
Advanced Languages SIG Meeting
Armbruster School
August 17th 2:00 PM
2nd Annual Picnic/Meeting

FROM THE DISK OF
Dave Frazer

What a great start at being president of Milatari - no one has a key for the hall and we find it necessary to meet in the school yard! Look at it as a dress rehearsal for our August picnic - Gary you forgot the brats!!!

We are making sure that the key shows up next time (I have my fingers crossed). If all goes well we will have a three ring event for you. 1) our third annual swap fest, 2) Don Wilcox's demo which has been held over from June and 3) the Syncom rep to discuss diskette manufacturing. The GEM workshop will be rescheduled in September.

Board Notes
(The board meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Ground Round at Hwy 100 and Blue Mound Road. We start at 6:30PM. Members are invited to join us.)

At the June 13th board meeting the following actions were taken.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The new officers approved the list of appointed directors. The complete list is in the center of this issue of the newsletter. Please retain for your reference.

BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM: Rich Dankert was approved as SYSOP for our BBS. Rich is in the process of setting up the system and we will go online on August 1st. The phone number will be printed in the August newsletter.

ATR8000 SIG LEADER: Joe Kasper was approved as ATR8000 SIG leader. He will take the place of Don Wilcox in August.

SWAP FEST COMMITTEE: Gary Nolan and Erik Hanson will supervise the activities of the swap fest. There will be no charge for commercial dealers at this event only.

PICNIC COMMITTEE: Carl Mielcarek is in charge of the picnic committee. He will need members to assist him. Please call Carl at 355-3539 to offer your assistance.

´C´ FROM ACE: The club will purchase of copy of the public domain ´C´ compiler from ACE. This disk will be made available to members via the disk library.

520ST REBATES: The board voted to share the $50 donate from Atari with the members ordering 520ST's. When we receive the donation from Atari, $25 will be returned to each member ordering a system and the balance will be used to by 3 1/2 media for the disk library.

We are looking for a member to supervise the kid's korner. Please call me or see me at the next meeting if you can help.

The August newsletter will be published be for the July meeting. This is due to the fact that both Roy and I will be out of town over the end of the month. Any articles must be into Roy by July 11th.

I will be on vacation from July 21st through August 11th. I hope things can wait. If not, get to me before I leave.

Don't forget the Swap Fest. Here is your chance to trade and sell software and hardware. See you on the 21st.........
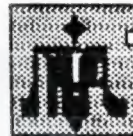
THE FUZZY NOLAN REVIEW

BY GARY NOLAN

DA-DA-DUM-DUM, DA-DA-DUM-DUM, ECT., ECT.
(Imagine the theme from JAWS up there.)

Just when you thought it was safe to open the newsletter again HE reappears. Anyway, I´m back. And with a little luck we should make it on a kind of, sort of, maybe regular basis.

**YA SEE, IT WAS NEVER ´SPLAINED TO ME LIKE THAT BEFORE**
(OOORRR, SUCH A DEAL(?) I GOT FOR YOU, (MAYBE))

When the rumor of a direct from Atari purchase on the new ST´s was announced a lot of people were interested. When the final details of the deal(?) were announced, many stopped planning on buying with the group. When the deal(?) was analyzed, all but two members (myself included) dropped out of the bidding. On the surface those who buy direct will get the systems early. But how early is that? According to Atari the dealers will get the 520ST systems in July, lets say later in the month. The user group deadline is June 25th. That means that they won´t be ready to ship until the middle of July, if then. OK! What are the differences between the systems, and there are differences. The UG systems have the TOS operating systems on disk and will be allowed to upgrade to ROM chips at a "NOMINAL COST", if TOS is upgraded within six months you get that upgrade free. LOGO comes with the system and Basic will follow later, at NO CHARGE! The system is the same 520ST w/512K RAM, 3 1/2" 360K (useable cap.) and high res B&W monitor package that the dealers will sell. Only the dealer units will have

TOS in ROM (can you imagine the field day Apple & Commodore would have in their ads if Atari tried to sell the real world a computer with the OS on disk, taking up precious RAM space?). Basic should be done by then so they would get both (or so we where told). People who buy systems at dealers will also be getting two GEM programs called GEM Write and GEM Draw, worth at least $100 (it´s really $250 but DRI is offering a special through the end of Aug.). So there you have it. The Atari deal(?) and the dealer package. Do you want to be first on your block or wait them out and pick up a few freebie´s, and more useable RAM. Nobody talked about color monitors or double sided drives being added to the system package, both are or will be available separately though.

There is another alternative on the horizon. It´s called the 260ST & 260STD. It is a 256K version of the ST series with (STD) and without (ST) a built in 3 1/2" SSDD disk drive. Cost is quite low for something this powerful. At $399 plain and $499 disk added these are intended for the mass merchants, y´know K-Mart, Toy ´R´ Us and the like. And who knows they might be upgradeable to 512K. Everything is probably extra but if funds are tight, what the heck, it´s a start!

Why didn´t I buy? Well somewhere between the conception, birth and implementation of the "sell to the User Group first" idea something went astray. Sure they would give $50 per system back to the groups to help build up their treasuries and the buyers would not have to pay sales tax ($40 in WI) or shipping. But still the fact remains that to make up for the differences in the systems Atari COULD have made price concessions to the buyer. After all even though he IS paying retail, there is no DEALER or DISTRIBUTER involved and Atari is pocketing that portion of the cost as profit. What would it have hurt to send free ROM chips to the registered buyers of the UG systems? If they (Atari) have RGB monitors why not allow buyers to
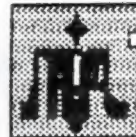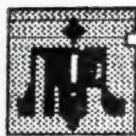
order one with a system or extra drives for that matter. You and I know that two drives is almost a necessity now-a-days. All in all I just thought that I´d be better off waiting to see what was left after the dust settled. We both know that I´ll buy an ST and probably a 520 from a local dealer. In that way Atari stays in business and so does a dealer (Computer Warehouse?), and I´ll have what will probably be one of the most cost effective computer systems around. And if 3 1/2" drives interest you see me at the July meeting and I´ll let you know how the new one I ordered for my ATR is working out.

LET ´EM EAT SAND
(KEY-KEY WHO´SE GOT THE KEY)

It was not a very auspicious start for Dave´s presidency, but last months meeting was held partly in the parking lot and on the gym set because of a mix-up with the Greendale Rec. department. But we will be back at the same old haunts next month. FUZZY NOLAN indeed!!! (Sorry Dave I just couldn´t let it pass) But as Dave said later, "Even without a meeting place it takes us 2/3 hours to not hold a meeting"

SO THAT´S WHAT IT´S LIKE

In the May issue of the newsletter we reprinted a review of PaperClip, a new word processor for Atari computers, that was posted on CompuServe by Antic magazine. For several weeks starting in late April we had received some strange mailings from the people at Batteries Included. While we where at the CES we stopped at their booth and asked them about it and what it all was leading up to. It turns out that we should have gotten a copy of the Paperclip program but didn´t. Well they said that they would send us a copy as soon as they could, and they did. After reading the Antic review I was really looking forward to trying out this new word processor. When it arrived I had to fight off NL editor Roy Duvall to get a chance at it. I had to promise to give it back in two days so I really didn´t

get to "know" it too well. But I did find out enough about it to know that when the improved version comes out I´M agonna git it. That improved one should be here right after the 80 col cartridge comes out. We saw a prototype at CES and the character definition is really good.

QUICK! WHAT´S THE MEANING OF THE WORD VOCIFERATE?

One item shown at this years CES was something called a CD ROM unit. What they´ve done is to take an audio laser disk player and converted it to a read only computer device. With a capacity of 500 meg (conservative rating) you could have a information resource of fantastic proportions. The unit was shown with an encyclopedia on the disk/ROM. Access time on a worst case basis was about 3 sec.. With the right control software you can ask for all the information on a given subject and receive either a hard copy or screen dump of the needed info. Gee, you might have an easier time getting the kids to do their homework. And they might really learn something along the way.
The company that introduced this unit was none other than Atari. They´re shooting for a release date of later this year with a price of around $500 with ROM disks prices to be announced later.

OOOPS, ´SCUZE ME SIR YOUR SLIP IS SHOWING

Last year Commodore sued Atari when four of its engineers quit and went to work for Atari claiming they took some papers, plans and source codes that didn´t belong to them. A federal judge in Philly ruled for Commodore and told the naughty guys to give back all that neat stuff. Commodore, in the meantime, says that they will go back to court if they find that any of its technology is used in any Atari products. Could this portend a quick and dirty death of the ST or maybe the mysterious VAX-in-a-box? NAA. Fast Jack would never do a thing like that. Would he?

Indus DOS XL 2.35i
by Roy Duvall

About 2 months ago I finally gave in and called Indus to ask if they ever came out with their Syncromesh DOS. Well, after the usual hold time the customer service rep said they were just starting to ship DOS 2.35i and she would send me an order form. In about a week the order form arrived and announced the the introductory pricing (which ended in 3 days i.e. April 30, 1985) was $2.00 S&H and the original DOS disk and registration number or $9.95 (soon to be $19.95) for the new DOS disk and "the new handsome DOS Operators Manual". Well, I shot the wad. A little more than a month later the package arrived. The "handsome" manual is 95% the same as the OSS DOS XL manual, which I had just received. The startup.exc file boots up the GTSYNC file which actually switches the drive(s) and DOS in 'syncromesh'. The booting of this disk actually takes longer than the standard DOS XL boot due to disk formatting differences. The Manual notes that a major speed increase in syncromesh is due to the custom format sector organization. I suspect they also increase the SIO tranfer baud rate of the syncromesh drives. As GTSYNC runs it querries each drive to identify all INDUS type controllers and instructs them to "shift into Syncromesh over drive". If the drive is not an INDUS it leaves the drive in normal mode. The 1050 is set to single density mode. (DOS XL doesn't speak enhanced density mode). The increased speed is very nice but not as quick as the Happy Warp speed. Also some programs do not use the syncromesh feature (another case of illegal software calls?). I haven't come across a program that doesn't work but my testing is by no means complete or extensive.

The package also includes GTRPM program to test the speed of the drive. Of course, the manual doesn't specify how to change the speed if it's off, just to get the drive serviced. Speaking of service, about two weeks prior to receiving my syncromesh package I started to encounter errors on my Indus drive after about an hour's use. So this necessitated another phone call to Chatsworth and the necessary 5 minute on hold time to get a return authorization number. Remember to have the full serial number when you call or it will cost you another call (should I buy stock in AT&T ?) The 800 number has been discontinued.

Overall, I would rate the Indus syncromesh as very good. If you own a DOS XL Reference Manual do not waste your money. If you don't however, it might be worth the $8. Now that the review is done I can ship the drive to Ole California for repair and hope to see it before Xmas. If you do order syncromesh ask how my repair's going #2206. Thanks and happy computing.

INDUS SYSTEMS
9304 Deering Ave.
Chatsworth, CA 91311
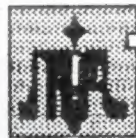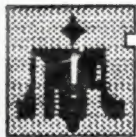
Antic On-Line Special Bulletin

Copyright 1985, Antic Publishing Inc.

Permission to reprint is hereby granted if article is reprinted in its entirety and credited to Antic Publishing.

by Michael Ciraolo

Sunday, June 2, 1985

Chicago, IL--Atari Corp. introduced two new computers at the summer Consumer Electronics Show today, and is expected to make more major announcements tomorrow.

Atari introduced two new computers, the 260ST and the 260STD.

The 260ST is a 256K version of the 68000-based 16-bit ST machines previously announced by Atari.

According to Atari marketing official Brian Kerr, the new machine is expected to retail in the $399 range and will be shipped this fall.

Atari also announced the 260STD, identical to the 260, with the addition of a built-in 3-1/2 inch disk drive. Kerr said the expected price is $499.

Both of the 256K machines will have the operating system and Graphics Environment Manager (GEM) built in ROM, according to Kerr.

However, the long-awaited 520ST, which is now scheduled for shipping in July, will have an operating system installed in RAM, according to Kerr.

The company is expected to announce a read only memory device in the form of a compact laser disk for use with the new ST computers.

Although not officially announced, the CDROM was designed by Activenture in Monterey, Calif.

Activenture demonstrated the CDROM privately to Antic shortly before the Consumer Electronics Show, where we learned that the CD has a 500 megabyte capacity.

The first product available on the CDROM will is expected to be a 100 megabyte encyclopedia from Grollier. Called an "inverted database" by its developers, the CDROM encyclopedia lets users type in words or strings of words to be searched throughout any portion of the text, all 20 volumes of the encyclopedia.

Further details are expected tomorrow, when Atari officials have promised to introduce the product.

Sunday, June 2, 1985

by Michael Ciraolo

Chicago, IL--New products for the 8-bit Atari computers include two new games from Lucasfilm, distributed through Epyx Software.

The two games, scheduled for release this fall, are Koronis Rift and The Eidelon.

Lucasfilm team leader Noah Falstein said of his team's game, The Koronis Rift: "It's the year 2249. An ancient coalition of races once existed throughout the galaxy. They've left behind artifacts.

"You're a techno-scavenger, hunting for artifacts when you find the motherlode of finds, a weapons testing ground."

Weapons are the most sellable of items, so you drop down to the surface of Koronis to scavenge. Of course, the ancient races left behind a variety of weapons, defenses and anti-detection devices, all protected by genetically engineered Guardians.
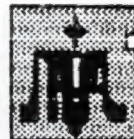
There is one remaining Guardian base at the end of the Rift, a Grand Canyon-like chasm, which can only be destroyed with the right combination of weapons systems.

"You are armed only with puny weapons when you start," said Falstein. "But you work your way up -- acquiring detection gear, weapons, shields, anti-detection equipment. As you get better equipment, you run into tougher guardians."

Koronis Rift is a multi-strategy game, and there is no one solution to the game. "It takes the right combination of weapon systems to get to the base at the end of the Rift," said Falstein.

"As I see it, this is played the way you play a text adventure. There will be an Encyclopedia Galactica to provide information on the races leaving the systems and you have to consider clues and strategy to reach the base at the Rift's end."

The game also works on other levels. Each weapon system is color coded, so a blue shield is the best defense for a blue laser, not so good for a purple laser, and no good for a red laser.

As one would expect from Lucasfilm, each game is breathtaking, both for game design and for programming innovation. Koronis features a cleaner version of the fractal landscape generator used in Rescue on Fractalus.

Not only are you presented with the pilot's view, control panel and overhead monitors, but Koronis also includes incredible GTIA animation produced by Jim St. Louis, who produced the introductory scene in Epyx's final version of Rescue. (Ed. Note: St. Louis was also the artist who created the famous Robot & Rocket demo graphics, used by Atari at the January CES)

The Eidolon takes you back in time, to the 19th century.

You've ventured into you uncle's dusty basement, and there it is, dials still glowing. But what is the Eidolon? According to Lucasfilm team leader Charlie Kellner, it's a magic time machine, a la H.G. Wells. The inventor left a few notes, but...

You start up the Eidolon, and find yourself in a cavern. You start running into things, and as they get more fiercesome, you get the feeling you're approaching the center. But of what?

Kellner won't say. But he did let on that the cavern, while immense, is not infinite. Indeed, it's the same cavern each time you play, and thus mappable.

"It's partly a voyage of discovery, partly a quest to get to the end," Kellner said.

Eidolon uses animation techniques never before used in home computers, according to Kellner. The characters in the game -- dragons, trolls and greps -- are produced by cel animation, the same technique used to animate Fred Flintstone and other cartoons.

Without using Player/Missile graphics, Kellner said, the animation for any one character is composed of four to six overlayed cels (from celluloid). One cel might be a leg; moved, you see a character walking, while the head is held motionless.

The Lucasfilm team's programming keeps the creatures moving logically against a three-dimensional background. "The characters are drawn in real-time, directly on the graphics screen," Kellner said.

The games are to be priced in the $29 to $35 range, and will be shipped in the near future. No specific ship date was given by Epyx.
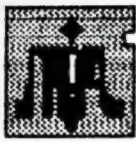
What's next from Lucasfilm? The team leaders wouldn't say, but both did mention their, and George Lucas' goal: interactive movies. While that may be five to ten years away, "interactive cartoons are a good first step," according to Kellner.

Monday, June 3, 1985

by Michael Ciraolo

Chicago, IL -- Imagine always having an encyclopedia available on your Atari, as readable as a conventional book, but as searchable as an industrial database.

Imagine, also, that you could search through 26-volume's worth of encyclopedia for term's such as "Costa Rica" and find 57 references in less than three seconds.

And imagine a $500 price tag for this technology.

Such technology, under development by Activenture in an exclusive agreement with Atari, was demonstrated at Atari's CES booth today.

Called a CDROM, the technology includes a compact laser disk player connected to the direct memory access port (DMA) on an Atari ST, according to Activenture's engineering vice president Tom Rollander.

The CDROM can hold a half gigabyte of information (500 megabytes), although the encyclopedia demonstrated occupied only a quarter of the disk's actual space.

Rollander told ANTIC that independent publishers would announce specific products for use on the CDROM in the future, starting with the encyclopedia, and with more products introduced in the fall.

Atari officials would not name the exact price or release date of the CDROM, and said they were still discussing whether Activenture or Atari would distribute the product.

Rollander said the CDROM "would be available in the fall."

Using the CDROM, you can browse through text, exactly as you might with a hard-copy volume from an encyclopedia, using the mouse for control. You can move foward or backwards by page, choose individual volumes, chapters or entries and so on.

You can also specify any section of text for dumping to a printer, Rollander said.

Or you can search for specific words or phrases, using powerful techniques familiar to industrial database subscribers.

Specify a word or phrase and look for it in all of the text, in bibliographies, in tables, in subheadings, in specific entries, or in combination with other unspecified terms.

Regardless of the search you choose, the computer screen will tell you how many entries were retrieved and let you look at each one. In each case, the text is black on white, with red cursor control and green highlighting of the chosen word.

The amazing speed of the CDROM search is the product of previous indexing, said Rollander. In fact, the computer is not searching the text of the encyclopedia each time, but is searching a specially prepared index, which is larger than the actual text.

The full text of the encyclopedia occupies 58 megabytes, while the index structure takes up 60 megabytes.

"We've traded hours of processing time on a VAX for the data storage capacity

MILWAUKEE AREA ATARI USES GROUP (MILATARI)

Elective Officers:

President: David Frazer
P.O. Box 1191
Waukesha, WI   53187-1191
(414) 542-7242
CIS: 73105,30

Vice Pres: Carl Mielcarek
6933 West Gleenbrook Road
Milwaukee, WI   53223
(414) 355-3539

Secretary: James Mangione
1404 Madison Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI   53172
(414) 764-6855

Treasurer: Steve Tupper
6906 West Florest
Milwaukee, WI   53218
(414) 462-8178

Appointed Directors:

Milatari : Dennis Bogie
West Dir.: S35 W28674 Loon Hollow
Waukesha, WI   53188
(414) 968-2361

President: Gary Nolan
Emeritus : 11230 West Bobolink
Milwaukee, WI   53225
(414) 353-9716
CIS:

Newsletter: Roy Duvall, Jr.
Editor   : 112 Armstrong Ct.
Mukwonago, WI   53149
(414) 363-8231

BBS Sysop: Richard Daankert
W140 N5319 Lilly Road
Menomonee Falls, WI
(414) 374-0608   53051

Cassette : Dennis Wilson
Librarian: 227 North 50th Street
Milwaukee, WI   53208
(414) 476-7767

Copy Write: Gary Haberman
Librarian: 2181 West Marne Avenue
Glendale, WI   53209
(414) 228-8845

Disk   : William Lawrence
Librarian: S29 W29378 Ancestral Drive
Waukesha, WI   53188
(414) 968-9341

Disk   : Robert Bobinger
Librarian: 5735 North 56th Street
Milwaukee, WI   53218
(414) 466-9341

Membership: Ron Friedel
Director : 8057 North 57th Street
Brown Deer, WI   53223
(414) 354-1717

Publication: Bill Feest
Librarian: 1930 South 58th Street
West Allis, WI   53219
(414) 321-4314

ATR8000 : Joe Kasper
SIG   : 12809 West Greenfield Avenue
New Berlin, WI   53151
(414) 782-9041

Languages: Erik Hanson
SIG   : N51 W15318 Wigwam Drive
Menomonee Falls, WI   53051
(414) 252-3146

Education: Joe Sanders
SIG   : 4641 North 29th Street
Milwaukee, WI   53209
(414) 447-1660

Basic   : Linda Scott
Instructor: 9910 West Metcalf Place
Milwaukee, WI   53222
(414) 466-2314
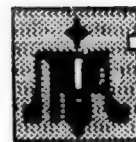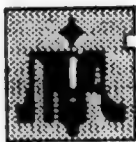
of the compact disk," explained Rollander.

His company took the magnetic storage tape used by typesetters and professional database suppliers and dumped an encyclopedia into a VAX computer.

Using the VAX, Activenture identified, indexed and cross-indexed 141,000 unique words in the text, producing a structure Rollander called "an inverted database".

The entire disk has a half gigabyte capacity, the same amount as 100,500 standard floppy disks, said Rollander.

THE INFORMATION AGE

Atari officials were ecstatic and called the CDROM "the most important innovation since home computers".

"This is what computers are all about," said one Atari marketing manager. "This will change everything. This is IT!"

Other reaction to the CDROM was mixed. In a crowd of distributors, retailers and members of the press, many people expressed their enthusiasm to ANTIC. Others were simply speechless.

"We asked ourselves ´What are most people doing with computers in the home?´ They´re using them as doorstops, playing games with them and eventually throwing them in the closet," said Rollander. "Now there´s a real reason to use the machines."

"I expect resistance from many publishers, but eventually CDROMs will have greater market penetration than current encyclopedias," Rollander predicted.

Nor is optical storage/inverted database technology limited to encyclopedias. Rollander said the principle may be applied to cookbooks and airline guides, and that his company

was talking to a variety of other publishers.

"I expect to see publications in the $100 to $150 range at first, dropping to $50 in time," he said.

The cost of such optically stored databases is not high for two reasons: Activenture´s indexing procedure uses the magnetic tape already in common use by publishers, so computer input is simple, with most books already existing on tape.

Rollander also indicated that material stored on microfiche could easily be read, so databases of journals, the New York Times and out-of-print materials could be produced.

Then there´s the technology of the compact laser disk. Mastering such a disk costs only a few thousand dollars, and the mass production cost is less than that of magnetic tapes and disks.

Because optical disks are mastered and pressed like records, there are no recording heads to wear out and no lengthy time spent making a recording, said Rollander.

INFOMANIACS DELIGHT

There is distinct pleasure in discovering all of the references to a particular word, references that you might never have found if you had simply looked up a primary entry.

For instance, Rollander demonstrated a search using the word "toothache". In addition to the expected references under dentistry, he also found mentions in connection with cloves, henbane and certain painful medical procedures developed during the Middle Ages.

The CDROM "gives students more appreciation for information than they get by simply looking up the subject," said Rollander.
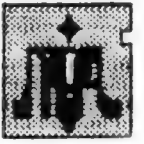
(ANTIC Note: CDROMs are capable of storing object code (programs) as well as text. In the near future, exclusive Activenture interviews with ANTIC will reveal other potential types of CDROM-based information, such as videotapes, photographs, and software.)

Tuesday, June 4, 1985

by Michael Ciraolo

Chicago, IL -- As companies debut new products for the Christmas buying season, there is enthusiastic interest in developing for both the new and old Atari computers. First the new:

The complete line of Infocom text adventure games will be available with the 16-bit Ataris.

Batteries Included announced a major commitment to the ST machines with their "IS" integrated software based on the GEM environment. According to Michael Reichmann, the company´s director of product development, the entire line will work at an intuitive level, so that users will not have to memorize any commands.

According to the early announcement, the IS line will include a word processor with a built-in spelling checker, a combined spreadsheet and graphics package, a database manager, and a stock portfolio manager. The screen structure and layout are the same for all programs.

All programs in the IS series will be released for the Atari STs and the IBM PC and compatible market. The first program, "Portfolio", will be available for the STs shortly after September 1, according to Batteries Included.

The Software Publisher Sierra On-Line will market the submarine simulation game GATO for the STs. GATO puts puts the player in the role of a World War II submarine commander, searching out and

attempting to destroy the Japanese Imperial Fleet.

Sierra president Ken Williams said "We want to see exactly how large these two new markets are. We figure the best way to test the unknown waters is to publish a proven product (already out on the IBM, Macintosh and Apple 128K) with a broad appeal for maximum market penetration."

The flight simulator producers SubLogic said they would produce a simulator called Jet, and Electronic Arts is expected to release a financial cookbook, both products for the STs.

FTL Software, producers of the Apple II game Sundog, Frozen Legacy, are converting the game over to the Atari STs. The game won Family Computing´s award for hybrid games last year--it is a role-playing economic simulation space adventure.

Many of these products were simply announced, with no date or price specified.

Several products for the 8-bit line of computers, including the 130 XE, were also announced.

Batteries Included, producers of PaperClip, announced an 80-column display, the "BI-80", for Atari 400/800, XL and XE computers.

The BI-80 plugs into the Atari cartridge slot and requires extremely little special programming or software switching to use.

The cartridge is expected to cost about $80.

Developers said the BI-80 produces a clean, crisp display ideal for writing professional-quality documents. Paper-clip will be the first software package released for the Atari BI-80. There was a functioning version of 80-column Atari

Paperclip shown at their booth.

According to John Skruch, product manager for the XE line, demand for the new 8-bit computers is so high he can't keep machines on warehouse shelves for over 18 hours.

The new XE products Skruch mentioned include programs from First Star Software, Synapse Software, and Adventure International.

Atari is also getting ready to release AtariWriter Plus, currently in final testing, a home productivity package called Silent Butler, and a proofreading program.

Skruch said this fall will also see the release of a planetarium program for the XEs that includes over 17000 plotted stars. The program will let users move through time, choose viewing angles, see constellations, track Halley's comet, and so on.

The programs sought by Atari Corp. continue to be application and education software, not games. "Atari Incorporated was a video game company that happened to make computers. We're a computer company that happens to make video games," Skruch said. "There aren't enough applications for the Atari."

Skruch also said his company has not released any 65XEs yet, as the nearly identical 800XLs are still available. When the last 800XLs are sold, Atari will start producing the 65XE.

"But at the price, the 130XE is still the machine of choice," Skruch said.

Tuesday, June 4, 1985

by Michael Ciraolo

Chicago, IL--While many companies are instroducing one product apiece for the Atari STs, one company has announced an entire line of ST products.

Haba Systems, headquartered in Van Nuys, Calif., will release a word processor (HabaWord), a file and report manager (HabaFiles) and a spreadsheet and graphics package (HabaCalc N Graph) in September for $59.95 each, according to Charles Becker, vice president for sales.

A communications program, not surprisingly called HabaCom, will be released in August for the same price, Becker said.

The company, which produced the integrated spreadsheet, word processor and database /// Easy Pieces for the Apple ///, will also release Hippo C and a checkminder program in late July or early August.

Becker added that all of the Haba applications will feature pull-down menus and point-and-click editing.

Haba, which has written over 10 products for the Macintosh, will port all of its current and future programs from the Mac to the Jackintosh, starting in January 1985, said Becker.

In addition to its line of software, Haba told ANTIC they will sell a 10 megabyte hard disk for $499 and a fully Hayes-compatible modem for $299. These products are called HabaDisk and HabaModem.

For people who are less than comfortable or fluent with computers, Haba offers Haba Software Solutions. Each retailing for $49.95, titles include How to Prepare and Manage a Home Budget, how to Write a Resume, How to Start Your Own Business, Business Forms, How to Prepare for the S.A.T., and so on.

The 46-member company is named for founder and chief executive officer Chaz Haba, who was director of marketing for Fairchild Semiconductor and who has started several small computer companies.
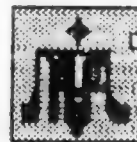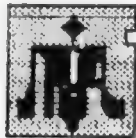
Becker said the Atari STs´ combination of 68000 processor technology, GEM operating system, mouse, serial and parallel ports, 40 and 80 column mode and game (cartridge) port make the ST a "true industry leader," especially in light of Jack Tramiel´s "genius for launching exciting, innovative and well-conceived products."

CES WRAP-UP & COMMENTARY

MEANING OF NEW ST CHANGES

By MIKE CIRAOLO, JACK POWELL

6/10- At the June Consumer Electronics Show Atari announced that two new ST models and a pioneering 500 megabyte ROM compact disk system would appear on dealer shelves in time for the Christmas rush.

Complete lines of integ- rated software for the ST were announced by three major developers. First programs from the new productivity series were to ship this fall from Haba, Batteries Included and Rising Star. Haba also promised ST owners a 10 megabyte hard disk for $499 and a $299 Hayes-compatible modem.

NEW ST MODELS

Atari said that both new ST´s will have 256K RAM of programmable memory. The 260ST will retail at $399. The 260STD is to be $499 and includes a built-in 3.5" disk drive. Otherwise they are identical with the 520ST except for the following:

* GEM and the rest of the TOS operating software will be on ROM chips instead of on disk.

* The television RF modulator is to be built-in.

* The new 256K models won´t ship till October or November.

520ST DEVELOPMENTS

How is all this significantly different from the 520ST?

According to Atari Marketing VP James Copland, the first 2,000 U.S. units of the 520ST were already shipping in June to Atari users groups.

In July the 520ST would appear in computer specialty stores, and mass merchandiser distribution of the ST line would begin in the fall, Copland stated.

By June, the 520ST was already on computer store shelves in Canada and parts of Western Europe.

Price of the 520ST was set at $799 and included a 3.5" disk drive, a high-resolution monochrome monitor, external RF modulator pack -- and GEM on disk, leaving 256K RAM in memory after loading GEM and TOS.

So all the 1985 ST´s will now have no more than 256K of usable RAM...or will they?

ROM OR NOT?

For pre-Xmas delivery, manufacturing must begin no later than September. The CES announcement of the 260ST and 260STD gave Atari all of June and July to make sure GEM and TOS were thoroughly debugged.

These newly announced 260 models will allow Atari to maintain credibility by meeting its pledge to ship the 520ST to US stores in early July. Disk updates could easily remedy any bugs found in the operating system of early 520ST´s manufactured in May and June.

To Antic, the whole thing looks like a gutsy, clever move from Atari Chairman Jack Tramiel. Much of the U.S. business press unfortunately is computer-illiterate and reports even minor production delays as putting a company´s
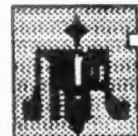
entire future in doubt. Atari needed to bring an ST to market quickly as possible, even if in limited numbers.

Yet Tramiel had clearly learned a valuable lesson during his Commodore days, the glitchy Commodore 64 operating system that went into ROM sooner than it should. In the long run, rushing GEM and the ST operating sytem into chips before it was truly ready would create user problems and be bad business.

As this issue went to press, Atari had been issuing mixed signals about whether a 520ST GEM and operating system upgrade to ROM would be provided by the manufacturer.

Before and during CES, the company repeatedly said that the 520ST model would never have GEM and TOS in ROM. However, a June 7 message on CompuServe's SIG*Atari from a company spokesman quoted Atari president Sam Tramiel as saying the entire 520ST operating software would be made available on simple plug-in chips at "nominal cost."

Of course, commercial 520ST software that doesn't use the GEM desktop can still draw on close to 400K of available RAM.

CD ROM

The mind-boggling 500 megabyte CD ROM was the hottest thing at CES. It was displayed at the Atari booth by Activenture, which is developing the technology under contract with Atari.

Imagine a read-only disk that's identical to a compact audio digital disk, but which could contain 100 volumes of reference books with room left over. And the 100 volumes of information would be instantly accessible. Only three seconds were required for the 520ST and CD ROM to search a keyword through an entire 26-volume encyclopedia.

PLU-PERFECT
by
Dick Reaser

Maiden Names and the Conditional "I" in Data Perfect.
(or don't leave them standing at the altar)

I have figured out a very useful purpose for the Conditional "I" (not to be confused with "I DO!"). The Data Perfect manual uses it for financial type information. The example in the manual covers the use of "I" where one would write something like "Debit" or "Credit" depending on whether you were working with a positive or negative number in your bank account.

I am presently working with a data base of my High School classmates' (Classes 1950 thru 1954) addresses. This chauvinist world causes the ladies to lose, or at least change, their last name if they happen to get married. I wanted to be able to retain their maiden name for use in alphabetical sorting and listing (and fond memories of a miss spent youth), but also use their married name for addressing and

DON'T FORGET!
Contribute an article this month.

information purposes. In other words, I wanted to show a lady as "Kathryn Joan (Britten) Reaser" and a man as "Richard Lee Reaser" all from the same database and using the same Report or Label format in one printing without having to do extra searches. After a long period of just wishing, I finally arrived at the following successful solution. I set up the fields for the data base thus:

Field Num	Field Name	Data
1	First Name	_____
2	Middle Name	_____
3	School Last Name	_____
4	Married Name	_____
5	Sex (0=Male, 1=Female)	_
6	Address	_____

(Field 4 is left blank for a male or an unmarried female)
(Field 5 is a Numerical Field)

Here are two sample records:

1 Kathryn
2 Joan
3 Britten
4 Reaser
5 1
6 Los Angeles, CA.

1 Richard
2 Lee
3 Reaser
4
5 0
6 Los Angeles, CA.

The Report or Label format is entered as follows:

First line:

[CR][#][1][CR] [N][*][ ][CR] [N][#][2][CR] [N][*][ ][CR]
[N][I][\][(\][(][CR] [F][(][5][(]][CR] [N][#][3][CR]
[N][I][\][(\][)][CR] [N][*][ ][CR] [N][#][5][CR]

Second line

[CR][#][6][CR]

(The Brackets "[]" enclose a Keystroke and [CR] means "Carriage Return")

Explanation:

[CR][#][1][CR] Prints the First Name

[N][*][ ][CR] Prints a space immediately after the First Name

[N][#][2][CR] Prints the Middle Name.

[N][*][ ][CR] Prints a space immediately after the Middle Name.

[N][I][\][(\][(][CR] [F][(][5][(]][CR] Prints nothing if the value of Field 5 is negative or zero but prints "(" if the value of Field 5 is positive.

[N][#][3][CR] Prints the School Last Name.

[N][I][\][(\][)][CR] Prints nothing if the value of Field 5 is negative or zero but prints ")" if the value of field 5 is positive.

[N][*][ ][CR] Prints a space after the School Last Name (or after the ")")

[N][#][5][CR] Prints the Married Name (if there is one).

[CR][#][6][CR] Prints the Address.

The list will now print out (for the two sample records) as:

Kathryn Joan (Britten) Reaser
Los Angeles, CA

Richard Lee Reaser
Los Angeles, CA

The number of keystrokes could be reduced by containing the [ ] between the Middle Name and the School Last Name within the Conditional Literals such as [N][I][ ][\][ ][\][ ][(][CR] [F][(][5][(]][CR].

Fortunately, you only have to enter the keystrokes once if you use the "Data Doubler" described in my previous "Plu-Perfect" article where you can have practically an unlimited number of Report/Label formats.

I have also used this type application of the Conditional "I" for the first names of couples and sing' persons in the same data base. this way I can print out "Dick and Joan Reaser" as well as "Ruth Reaser" all from the same data base and using only one label format.

Now that is real POWER!

MILWAUKEE AREA ATARI USER'S GROUP AND NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

MILATARI OFFICERS

President	David Frazer	542-7242
Vice President	Carl Mielcarek	355-3539
Secretary	Jim Mangione	764-6855
Treasurer	Steve Tupper	462-8178

MILATARI VOLUNTEERS

MILATARI West	Dennis Bogie	968-2361
Education SIG	Joe Sanders	447-1660
ATR8000 & CP/M	Don Wilcox	228-1650
Adv. Lang. SIG	Erik Hanson	252-3146
Membership	Dave Bogie	968-2361
Newsletter	Roy Duvall	363-8231

Public Domain Libraries

Cassette	Dennis Wilson	476-7767
Disk	Bob Bobinger	466-9341
	Bill Lawrence	968-9341

Copyright Library

Cassette/Disk	Gary Haberman	228-8845
Publications	Marcus Hagen	445-0710
	Bill Feest	321-4314

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

This newsletter is written and printed by members of the Milwaukee Area ATARI User's Group (MILATARI). Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent or reflect the opinions of the Milwaukee Area Atari User's Group, its officers, its members or its advertisers except where noted. Articles reprinted from bulletin boards and other newsletters are presented as an information exchange, no warranty is made to their accuracy or factuality.

Your contributions of articles are always welcome. You may submit your article on ATARI compatible cassette or diskette, on typewritten form or you can arrange with the editor to upload your file via modem. You can send Graphics eight or seven plus screens stored on disk in Micropainter or Micro Illustrator formats.

Other computer user groups may obtain copies of this newsletter on an exchange basis.

Milwaukee Area Atari User's Group

MILATARI is an independent, user education group which is not affiliated with ATARI INC. The newsletter is the official publication of MILATARI and is intended for the education of its members as well as for the dissemination of information concerning ATARI computer products.

MILATARI membership is open to individuals and families who are interested in using and programming ATARI computers. The membership includes a subscription to this newsletter and access to the club libraries. The annual membership fee is $15 for individuals or $20 for a family.

Vendors wishing to display and/or sell items at MILATARI meetings must make prior arrangements with the club vice president. Please call for fee schedule.

All material in this newsletter not bearing a COPYRIGHT message may be reprinted in any form, provided that MILATARI and the author are given credit.

MILATARI ADVERTISING RATES

This newsletter will accept camera ready advertising copy from anyone supplying goods and services of interest to our membership.

Current paid members of MILATARI may place classified ads in the newsletter at no charge.

Advertising Rates

Full page	$37.50
Half page	$20.00
Quarter page	$12.50
Business card	$2.00